

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polypeptide which activates GFR α 1-RET but does not substantially activate GFR α 2-RET or GFR α 3-RET, wherein

(a) said polypeptide comprises a persephin sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, and further comprises with substitutions in region F2a (amino acids 60-67 of SEQ ID NO:1) and substitutions in region F2c (amino acids 77-83 of SEQ ID NO:1),

(b) the substitutions in region F2a comprise from one to four to eight amino acids that are identical to region F2a of a GDNF family ligand,

(c) the substitutions in region F2c comprise from one to seven to eight amino acids that are identical to region F2c of a GDNF family ligand,

(d) the GDNF family ligand is a peptide of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the substituted persephin polypeptide comprises a human-persephin sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 with substitutions for amino acid residues 63-66 of SEQ ID NO:1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19, and substitutions for amino acid residues 76-82 of SEQ ID NO:1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21 and SEQ ID NO:22.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The polypeptide of claim 1, comprising SEQ ID NO:23.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The polypeptide of claim 47, consisting of SEQ ID NO:26.

Claim 9 (original): A composition comprising the growth factor of claim 4-7 in a pharmaceutically acceptable preparation.

Claims 10-36 (canceled)